

June 1999**The Universal Licensing
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On June 10, 1999, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Report and Order enabling the public to access application and licensing information in the Universal Licensing System (ULS) via the Internet. The FCC's decision will significantly enhance the ability of the public to access public record information regarding wireless applications and licensees, at a reduced cost.

As a result of this order, anyone with a computer and Internet software will be able to use his or her Internet account to research and review application and licensing data in ULS. Thus, members of the public have a fast, convenient, and low-cost method of monitoring the status of applications or researching current wireless spectrum use. The public will also have access via the Internet to the ULS Geographic Information System, which enables users to create customized Internet access to License Search and Application Search maps of licensing data.

Further, the order provides for access via the Internet to application data in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's (WTB's) auctions database. To ensure the security and reliability of these databases, however, parties participating in electronic bidding or filing wireless applications will continue to dial directly into the Commission's Wide Area Network (FCC WAN) to access ULS or the auctions database.

In a companion order, the FCC also addressed petitions for partial reconsideration of the *ULS Report and Order*, adopted by the Commission in September 1998. The FCC substantially upheld the *ULS Report and Order*, but clarified and streamlined certain licensing rules and procedures to reduce filing burdens on wireless applicants. The Commission also extended the transition period for filing pre-ULS forms, and lengthened the period during which applicants can re-file applications returned for corrections.

ULS Presented Prestigious Hammer Award

On June 10, 1999, the FCC was awarded the Vice President's Hammer Award for reinventing government for its development of ULS. Karen Freeman of the National Partnership for Reinventing Government (NPR) presented the FCC with the award at the Commission's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Hammer Awards are given to teams of federal, state and local employees, and citizens who work to reinvent government. To learn more about the Hammer Award visit the NPR webpage at: <http://www.npr.gov/library/awards/hammer>.

FCC Launches Consecutive-day ULS Interactive Demonstrations

Due to requests from individuals outside the Washington, DC area, this month the FCC began conducting ULS interactive demonstration sessions on consecutive days. The FCC is holding demonstrations on two consecutive days in the ITC Training Room on the 12th Street level (main entrance level) of the Portals building at 445 12th Street, S.W.

The next demonstrations are scheduled for:

June 23 -- Finding information in ULS (License Search and Application Search) (morning session) and General License Filings (afternoon session); and

June 24 -- Transfers and Assignments

The FCC chooses the demonstration topics based on comments from demonstrations held previously and will add, delete or modify future demonstrations as interest dictates. The Commission plans to continue the demonstrations through full deployment of the system. The focus of the demos will change as new services are implemented, and the Commission will continue to announce monthly schedules via Public Notice. The FCC is seeking comments and suggestions from those interested in attending such demonstrations in order to better coordinate and design the events. Also, comment is requested as to whether the FCC should hold interactive demonstrations at its Gettysburg, PA, office, and on future topics for the demonstrations.

Parties interested in attending the demonstrations and/or providing comments should contact Randy Byrd at (202) 418-0584, or via e-mail at rbyrd@fcc.gov. *Please specify which session(s) you would like to attend and provide a telephone number and e-mail address at which you can be contacted.* You may also indicate what specific service(s) are of most interest to you. Seating is limited and will be

assigned on a first come, first served basis (requests will be limited to one attendee per organization, company or firm). *Note:* The ITC Training Room accommodates up to 14 persons per session, and an attendee may have to share a computer monitor with another attendee.

SMR/GMRS Services Converted to ULS *Amateur Service is Next*

The General Mobile Radio Services and the 900 MHz Specialized Mobile Radio licenses that were initially awarded in Auction No. 7 (Auctioned 900 MHz SMR) were deployed in ULS April 19, 1999, bringing the total number of converted services to ten. Other wireless services will be converted from their old licensing systems to ULS in phases during the remainder of 1999. The next service to be converted to ULS is the Amateur service, scheduled for deployment in August 1999. The Bureau also will be converting its Antenna Registration System to ULS in July 1999.

GeoSearch Function Activated in ULS

The FCC has added a function to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) called GeoSearch that allows users to locate wireless telecommunications licenses within a specified geographical area through a point/radius search. To use GeoSearch, point your web browser to the ULS home page at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>, click on "License Search", enter your search criteria and then click "GeoSearch". Then enter the latitude and longitude for the center-point of the search and specify the size of your search radius in kilometers or miles, as prompted. The program will search the ULS license database and return results that meet the specified search criteria in the specified geographic area. Then you can view your results on a map with a single click of the mouse, if desired.

The GeoSearch function soon will also be available from within "Application Search" and enhanced in both "License

Search” and “Application Search” to include additional search options, including radius around a street address, city search and county/state search.

TINs Must Be Registered

Licenseses are again reminded that prior to filing applications in ULS, they **must** register their Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) - 9-digit numbers the Internal Revenue Service requires of all individuals and businesses/employers to identify tax accounts - and obtain a self-assigned password. On-line registration is quick, simple, and necessary only once. On the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's ULS Internet homepage, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>, simply click on the "TIN/Call Sign Registration" button and provide the information as prompted.

Manual TIN registration requires FCC Form 606 (TIN Registration Form), which can be obtained from the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>, or by

calling the FCC's Form Distribution Center at 1-800-418-FORM (3676).

If you registered your TIN manually and wish to file applications electronically, you must call ULS Technical Support at (202) 414-1250 to obtain a password. If you encounter problems registering your TIN electronically, contact Technical Support.

Also, on Monday, June 7, 1999, the FCC began the registration of TINs from antenna structure owners in order to prepare for the release of new Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) electronic filing software. Once the software is released in early July 1999, antenna structure owners wishing to file or modify antenna structure registrations electronically must have their TIN registered with the Commission. A future Public Notice will describe how to access and use the new software in ASR filings.

Technical Support/Contact Information

For general information about ULS, including answers to frequently asked questions regarding submitting applications, finding the status of pending applications, and searching the ULS database, the Commission recommends first consulting the ULS webpage at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>. Those having specific questions not addressed on the webpage may contact Commission staff via phone or e-mail as described below.

FCC Technical Support Hotline: (202) 414-1250 (TTY: (202) 414-1255), or via e-mail at ulscomm@fcc.gov. Contact the Technical Support Hotline about questions concerning computer access to ULS, TIN registration, uploading files, or submitting attachments in ULS. The hotline is available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm EST. In order to provide better service to ULS users and ensure the security of the electronic filing system, *all calls to the hotline are recorded*.

ULS Licensing Support and Forms Information: 1-888-CALL-FCC (225-5322), choose option #2. E-mail questions may be sent to ulshelp@fcc.gov. Contact Licensing Support with questions about which application purpose(s) are appropriate for a particular filing, what information is being requested on a ULS form or schedule, or any other ULS-related licensing matter. ULS Licensing Support is available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm EST.

Comments on ULS should be sent via the Internet to: ulscomm@fcc.gov.